Commission No. 557a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Dallas, Texas
March 4, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

The following information is set forth concerning Lee Harvey Oswald's alleged suicide attempt mentioned in his diary together with results of investigation concerning a scar or scars on his left wrist possibly associated with a "suicide attempt" of Oswald.

On February 25, 1964, Mr. C. J. Price, Administrator, Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas, advised he was unable to recall seeing or reading any report or observation on the part of any person who attended Lee Harvey Oswald after his fatal shooting on November 24, 1963, that commented on a scar on Oswald's inner left wrist. He stated he observed Oswald while he was in the Trauma room and during the time he was sent to surgery at Parkland Memorial Hospital on the day of the shooting and he failed to observe any scar on Oswald's wrist.

Mr. Price advised that Dr. Earl Rose, Medical Examiner for Dallas County, performed an autopsy on the body of Oswald and that Dr. Rose probably would have observed the body more minutely than anyone else.

Mr. Price further advised that Carl Dockery, a resident intern at Parkland Memorial Hospital, made photographs on 35 mm. film of Oswald while Oswald was in surgery prior to his death and that this film was impounded and is currently in his private possession as a result of instructions by the Board of Directors of the hospital. He stated the film has not been developed and it will be produced upon the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum addressed to him and/or Edward R. Maher, President of the Board of the Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas. He added that Mr. Maher's business address is c/o Ed Maher, Inc., Ford dealer, 420 N. Harwood Street, Dallas, Texas, telephone RIverside 1-3871. Mr. Price stated that some of this film might show the inner left wrist of Lee Harvey Oswald.

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On February 25, 1964, Miss Audrey N. Bell, a registered nurse, employed as Supervisor of Operating and Recovery Rooms, Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, advised she observed Lee Harvey Oswald at Parkland Memorial Hospital on November 24, 1963, in the emergency room and during her stay with him she did not have an opportunity to observe any old scars on his left inner wrist.

On February 25, 1964, Dr. Earl Forrest Rose, Dallas County Medical Examiner, Parkland Memorial Hospital, advised he performed an autopsy on the body of Lee Harvey Oswald at 2:45 p.m. on November 24, 1963, and that the autopsy report which he prepared was No. M63-356. It is noted on page 2, line 12 through line 13, there is a transverse 1 3/4 inch slightly raised white scar on the volar aspect of the left wrist.

Another scar on the left wrist is recorded at the end of the first paragraph, page 2, lines 19 and 20, which is described as a vertical 1 1/2 inch scar with cross-hatching over the medial aspect of the mid-distal third of the left arm.

Dr. Rose noted that the transverse scar on the left wrist, noted on lines 12 and 13, might possibly be associated with a suicide attempt.

Dr. Rose advised he has 27 color 35 mm. Kodachrome slides which he made during the autopsy which have been developed and were observed to be over-exposed which he stated could be produced if necessary for appropriate examination. Dr. Rose projected the slides in the presence of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the scars are not noticeably apparent in them. These slides are numbered 3 and 4 of Parkland Memorial Hospital Autopsy File No. M63-356.

On February 26, 1964, Mr. Paul J. Groody, Embalmer and Funeral Director; Charles B. Miller, owner, and Allen S. Baumgardar, Apprentice-Embalmer, Miller Funeral Home, 5805 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas, all advised that at the time the body of Lee Harvey Oswald was embalmed they did not observe any type of scar on the left wrist of Oswald.

On February 28, 1964, Robert L. Oswald, 1009 Sierra, Denton, Texas, advised that on January 19, 1964, both Marina Oswald and James Herbert Martin, her business manager at that time, mentioned something to him about the possibility that Lee Harvey

Oswald had attempted to commit suicide at one time. Both Marina Oswald and Martin stated they had known nothing about it until some mention was made of an entry to this effect in the diary of Lee Harvey Oswald found by federal investigators. Robert Oswald stated that both Marina Oswald and Martin stated they had never heard of any attempt by Lee Harvey Oswald to commit suicide but Marina Oswald stated she had noticed a scar on Lee's wrist and had asked him about it several times. According to Robert Oswald, Marina Oswald indicated that Lee Harvey Oswald did not answer her queries and never made any explanation as to how he got this scar.

Robert Oswald stated that other than the above he had never heard of any attempt by Lee Harvey Oswald to commit suicide, does not recall any comment or discussions by Lee Harvey Oswald on the subject of suicide, and does not recall ever seeing a scar on either of Lee Harvey Oswald's wrists.

On March 2, 1964, Marina Oswald advised she possessed no additional information to that already furnished with respect to Lee Harvey Oswald's "suicide attempt" as reported in his diary.

On February 28, 1964, Dr. Earl Forrest Rose made available a Xerox copy of his autopsy record on Autopsy No. M63-356 which was performed on Lee Harvey Oswald on November 24, 1963. In this autopsy record under "External Examination" the following appears:

> "External examination reveals a 5 foot, 9 inch white male, the estimated weight is 150 pounds. Rigor is not present, slight cooling of the body. There is faint posterior mottling lividity.
>
> "Identification bands on the left wrist, the right wrist, the left great toe. The head is examined. The hair is brown, slightly wavy. Small amount of dried blood in the hair which has run from the hairline to the right and backward. Slight frontal balding. To the right of the midline over the forehead is a 1/2 x 1/16 inch crusted superficial abrasion. The hairline, left temporal region, is a 1/16 inch very superficial abraded area. There is a left periorbital hematoma which is purple in the central portion, fading at the margins to a faint lemon-yellow. Total diameter of this is 1 3/4 x 1 1/4 inch.

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"The irides are grey-blue, the pupils are equal at 8 mm. The sclera and conjunctiva are not remarkable. Poorly defined scar on the dorsum of the nose which measures 1/4 x 1/4 inch. There is black material in the nares. Midline, upper lip, terminating at the vermillion margin is a 1/4 inch pale scar. To the left of the midline, the upper lip, is a 1/16 inch abrasion. The buccal cavity is otherwise not remarkable. Oral hygiene is fair with some fillings. The tongue is not remarkable. The beard measures between 1 to 2 mm. Examination of the neck isade. At the upper end of the right sternocleidomastoid over the skin is a transverse very superficial 3/4 inch scratch with some reddish antiseptic type of paint surrounding this. Hair distribution is normal. The pubic hair has been shaved. The penis is circumcised. The testes are descended. The abdomen is flat.

"Over the left pectoral region, 14 inches from the top of the head and 2 3/4 inches to the left of the midline there is a 1 1/4 inch wound. The edges of this are sharp. Over the left chest is an oblique wound which originates 17 inches from the top of the head and runs forward, downward toward the midline anteriorly measuring 7 1/4 inches and closed by 12 running back sutures. This wound goes inferior to the left nipple. Over the lateral aspect of the left arm, 16 inches from the top of the head is a 3/4 x 3/8 inch wound. It goes into the subcutaneous tissue. 18 inches from the top of the head over the lateral aspect anteriorly of the right arm there is a 1 x 1/2 inch wound which goes into the subcutaneous tissue. 21 1/2 inches from the top of the head originating slightly below the xiphoid running in the midline to above the pubis is a 10 1/2 inch anterior midline wound closed by 5 wire sutures. Above the medial malleolus on the right side there is a 1 3/4 inch transverse cut-down incision. Cephalad to this is a transverse 1 3/4 inch superficial transverse incised wound. Above the left medial malleolus there is a 1 1/2 inch cut-down type of incised wound. To the left of the midline region of the second thoracic vertebra there is a very faint

"3/8 inch bluish discolored area. In the right antecubital fossa is a very tiny needle puncture type of wound surrounded by bluish discoloration. In the left antecubital fossa there are three small needle puncture type of wounds surrounded by bluish discoloration. The nails are examined. They are somewhat dirty although quite well cared for. No evidence of injury is noted. On the midportion dorsum of the left hand, there is a poorly defined pale white oblique 1/2 inch scar. Over the volar aspect of the right wrist there is a transverse superficial 1/4 inch abrasion. Volar aspect of the left wrist there is a transverse 1 3/4 inch slightly raised white scar. Medial aspect of the right knee reddish very poorly defined 7/8 x 1/4 inch reddish discoloration. Over the left arm, below the deltoid there is a transverse 5/8 x 3/4 inch somewhat puckered and irregular scar. A few striae along the lateral aspect of the thighs. Some of the hair of the chest has been shaved. In addition, to the left of the midline there is a round poorly defined round impression on the skin, the diameter of which is 2 inches. Over the medial aspect mid-distal third of the left arm there is a 1 1/4 inch vertical scar with cross hatching. 23 inches from the top of the head and 3 3/8 inches to the left of the midline anteriorly and 10 3/4 inches to the left of the midline posteriorly, over the lower aspect of the left chest there is an entrance type of wound which measures 1/4 x 5/16 inch in diameter. This is surrounded by a contusion ring, the total diameters of the contusion ring are 3/8 of an inch.

"22 inches from the top of the head and 9 3/4 inches to the right of the midline anteriorly and 8 1/4 inches to the right of the midline of the back there is a vertical 2 x 1 inch gapping wound. Posterior to this by 1/2 inch there is a 3/4 x 3/8 inch irregular contused area."

Dr. Rose produced 27 35 mm. Kodachrome slides of photographs taken during the autopsy of Lee Harvey Oswald and requested that after the slides had been copied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory that they be returned to him as soon as possible. These 27 slides are described as follows:

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1. Full face.
2. Left side of face.
3. Right side of face.
4. Chest.
5. Abdomen with surgical incision.
6. Genital organs and thighs.
7. Lower thigh and knee.
8. Below knee and anterior.
9. Feet (top).
10. Soles of feet.
11. Back of head.
12. Upper back.
13. Lower back.
14. Buttocks.
15. Back of thighs.
16. Back of knees.
17. Ankles and back of feet.
18. Outer hands on chest.
19. Entrance gunshot wound.
20. Surgical wound.
21. Full face.
22. Full face.
23. Left wrist.
24. Left wrist.
25. Open abdomen.
26. Aorta with gunshot wound.
27. Aorta with gunshot wound.

The foregoing numbers 1 through 27 are the handwritten numbers placed on the slides at the time they were obtained from Dr. Rose on February 28, 1964, and the two slides numbered 23 and 24 are the slides referred to in the interview with Dr. Rose on February 25, 1964, as Nos. 3 and 4.